

'PAP' DERR IS DEAD IN LOS ANGELES, AGE 88

Pulled First S. P. Trains in Here—Was "Al" Mast's Fatherinlaw.

Paul Derr, known affectionately to all old timers as "Pap" Derr, who was the oldest former locomotive engineer in the service at El Paso, died Monday last in Los Angeles and was buried there Thursday.

"Pap" Derr left El Paso about seven years ago. He came to El Paso in 1881 on the first train from the west on the S. P. railroad at the throttle of an engine and ran regularly out of here until 1900, when his son-in-law, Al G. Mast, an engineer on the G. H. & S. A., was killed in a disastrous wreck at Maxon Springs, east of El Paso. His family had been urging him to retire and he acceded to their wishes after this fateful accident.

Was 88 Years of Age.

Mr. Derr was born in Pennsylvania and would have been 88 years of age on January 14 next, had he lived. He went to Forest City, Calif., in the 70s and operated an engine in a mine for a number of years. He transferred to the Southern Pacific when it began to build east to El Paso in 1880 and came to El Paso with the first train the next year.

Surviving the deceased is a widow, in Los Angeles, his second wife; three daughters and one son. The daughters are Mrs. E. P. Kopley and Mrs. C. E. Waterhouse, of El Paso, and Mrs. C. D. Akers, of Berkeley, Calif. The son is J. O. Derr, of Stockton, Calif. Five sons have died.

Grandson a Conductor.

C. D. Mast, a conductor on the Southern Pacific out of El Paso, is a grandson; also A. G. Mast, of Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Waterhouse went from El Paso for the funeral, which was also attended by the son from Stockton and the grandson at Long Beach. Mrs. Kopley could not make the trip.

"Pap" Derr, when bowling was at its height in El Paso, was one of the greatest devotees to the sport and often rolled a better score than many men younger than himself.

Stockwell Was Conductor.

W. M. Stockwell was the conductor on the train on which Al G. Mast was engineer when it was wrecked at Maxon Springs in 1900. Two score people met their death in the wreckage of the train, which burned after it overturned. Mr. Mast was scalded to death. Mr. Stockwell is now owner of the Takagober Co. in El Paso, having retired from the railroad business a number of years ago. Maxon Springs were named for Lt. Thos. Maxon, Tenth United States cavalry, who discovered the springs in the late sixties. The springs are 283 miles east of El Paso on the G. H. & S. A., 31 miles east of Marathon.